

Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheet or sheets attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figure(s) 1, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B and 6 are being presented as a new formal drawing sheet or sheets to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheet or sheets. The drawing Figures 1 and 2B have been amended. Appended to this amendment is an annotated copy of the previous drawing sheet which has been marked in red to show changes presented in the replacement sheet of the drawing.

The specific changes which have been made to Figure 1 are identification of elements 104, 105, 121, 124, and 233. The specific changes which have been made to Figure 2B are identification of elements 109, 121, 124, 127, 233, and 236.

Support for these changes are found in the specification in paragraphs 22, 27, 28 and 31 as originally filed.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

In the substitute specification no. 2, paragraphs have been amended on pages 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9

Claims 1, 8 and 15 are requested to be cancelled.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, and 20 are currently being amended.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 (17 claims) are now pending in this application.

The Office Action of August 19, 2004 and the references cited therein have been considered. In response to the rejections and objections to the claims, the applicants provide the following comments. As demonstrated, however, each of the rejections and objections is believed overcome, with the application being placed in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

On page 3, paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5) because "they do not include the following reference characters mentioned in the description: "104", "105", "204", "121", "124", "127", "233", "236", and "239".

In response, Applicants have amended the drawings to add the missing reference numbers mentioned in the specification as originally filed. Specifically,

Applicants have amended Fig. 1 and Fig. 2B to add reference numbers 104, 105, 121, 124, 127, 233, and 236. Applicants have also amended the specification to remove reference numbers 204 and 239, therefore those numbers do not appear on the amended drawings. Attached hereto is an annotated mark-up set of drawings showing the additions in red. Also attached is a replacement set of drawings which incorporate the above mentioned changes. Applicants submit that no new material has been added to the drawings or the specification relative to the drawings. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his objections to the drawings as amended.

On page 4, paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner points out that the specification identifies a "Figure 5" but that the drawings are labeled as Figures 5A and 5B. In response, Applicants have amended the specification in paragraphs 18, 19, 37 and 38 to identify Figures 5A and 5B to conform to the drawings as originally filed. No new matter has been added to the specification.

The Examiner also requested that the Applicants cooperate in marking any additional corrections to the specification that we become aware of. In response, Applicants have made a number of corrections to the specification. At this point, Applicants point out that they have submitted a substitute specification no. 1 which only renumbered the paragraphs of the specification to conform to present patent office practice. Substitute specification no. 1 is the same as originally filed (except for the paragraph numbers). Substitute specification no. 2 maintains the paragraph numbering mentioned above, however, substitute specification no. 2 includes the corrections listed below. The reference to paragraph numbers are the paragraph numbers on substitute specification no. 2.

Revision of the specification can be found in: paragraph 15 to correct a typographical error changing "or" to "on".

Paragraphs 18 and 19 correct the figure identification.

Paragraph 25, corrects grammar by changing "engaged" to "engagement".

Paragraph 27 corrects typographical error by changing “cutaway” to “cut away”. Also in paragraph 27 deletion of the reference number “204”.

Paragraph 31 corrected grammar by adding “A” and deleting reference number “239”.

Paragraph 37 corrected figure identification by adding “5A and 5B”.

Paragraph 38 corrected figure identification by adding “5A and 5B”.

Paragraph 38 properly identifies element “233”.

Applicants believe now that the specification, as revised and the drawings, as revised are in proper format and form and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his objection to the specification and drawings.

On page 5, paragraph 10, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gerst (USPN: 2,662,755).

On page 5, paragraph 11, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sarodsy (USPN: 2,572,058).

On page 5, paragraph 12, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 17, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by German patent DE3906417A1.

In response, Applicants have cancelled independent claims 1, 8 and 15 and made further modifications as discussed below with respect to the allowable subject matter.

On page 6, paragraph 13, the Examiner has objected to claims 3, 4, 7, 11, 14, 18 and 19 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have amended claim 3 by adding all the limitations of independent claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 3, as amended, is not anticipated by Gerst, Sarodsy, or the German patent. Applicants have amended

claims 2, 5, 6 and 7 to depend now from independent claim 3 and therefore also are not anticipated by the three cited patents..

Applicants have amended claim 11 to include all of the limitations of claim 8 and have rewritten claim 11 in independent form. Accordingly, independent claim 11, as amended, is not anticipated by the three cited prior art patents. Further, Applicants have amended claims 9, 10, 12 and 13 to depend from independent claim 11 as amended, and therefore they also are not anticipated by the three cited patents.

Applicants have amended claim 14 to include all of the limitations of claim 8 and have rewritten claim 14 as an independent claim, therefore it is not anticipated by the three cited patents.

Applicants have amended claim 18 to include all of the limitations of claim 15 and rewritten claim 18 in independent form. Accordingly, independent claim 18, as amended, is not anticipated by the three cited prior art patents. Applicants have also amended claims 16, 17 and 20 to depend from independent claim 18 as amended and therefore also are not anticipated by the three cited patents.

Accordingly, independent claims 3, 11, 14 and 18 and the dependent claims that respectfully depend from the independent claims, as amended, are not anticipated by the cited prior art and are allowable in accord with the Examiner's statement of reasons that the "prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest the recited shield fingers or studs on the discharge cover". Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his rejections and objections of claims 2-7, 9-14 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Applicants have attempted to amend the claims to the extent necessary to distinguish them over the prior art, but with the intent of not limiting the scope of the invention protection afforded by the patent laws to these claims, any further than absolutely necessary. It is respectfully submitted that each outstanding rejection and objection has now been overcome and that each claim is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

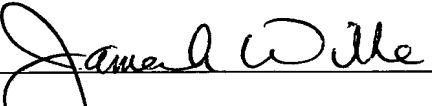
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 11-15-04

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By


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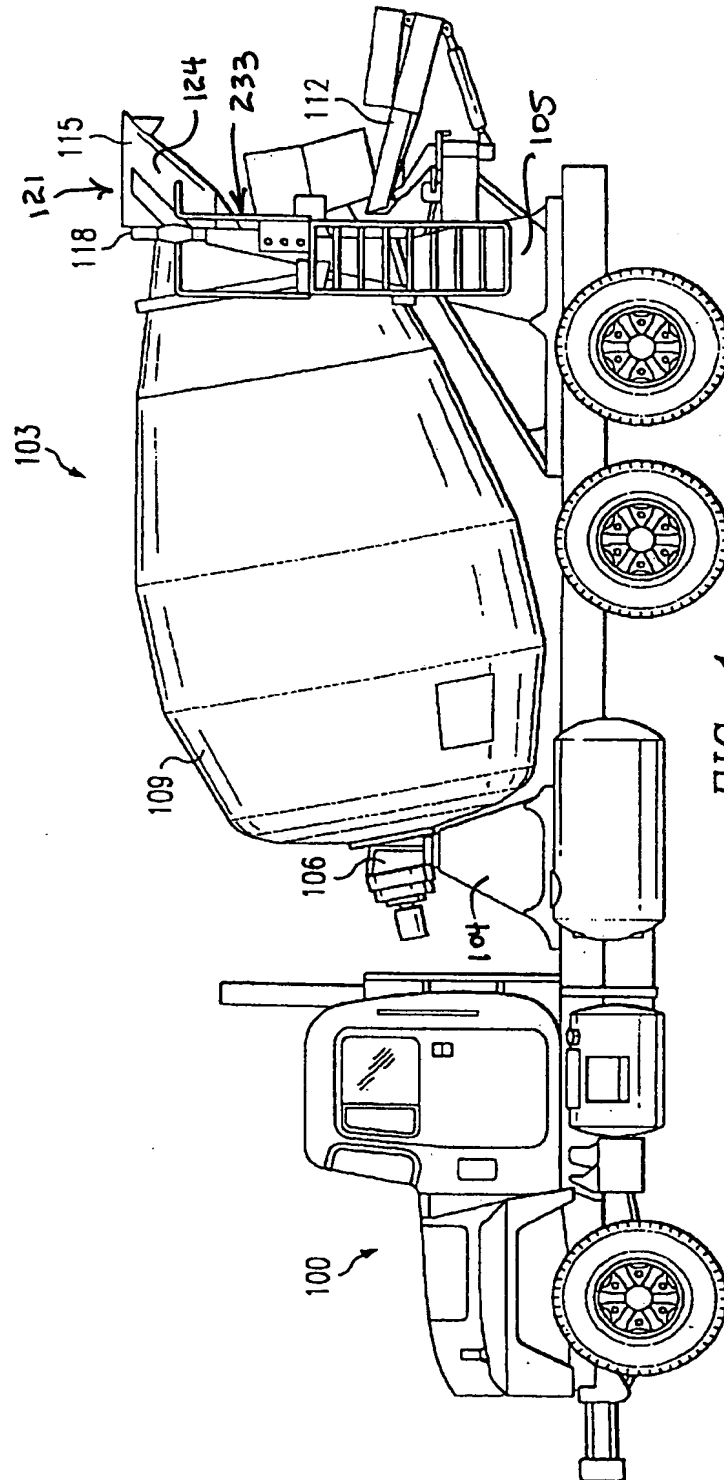
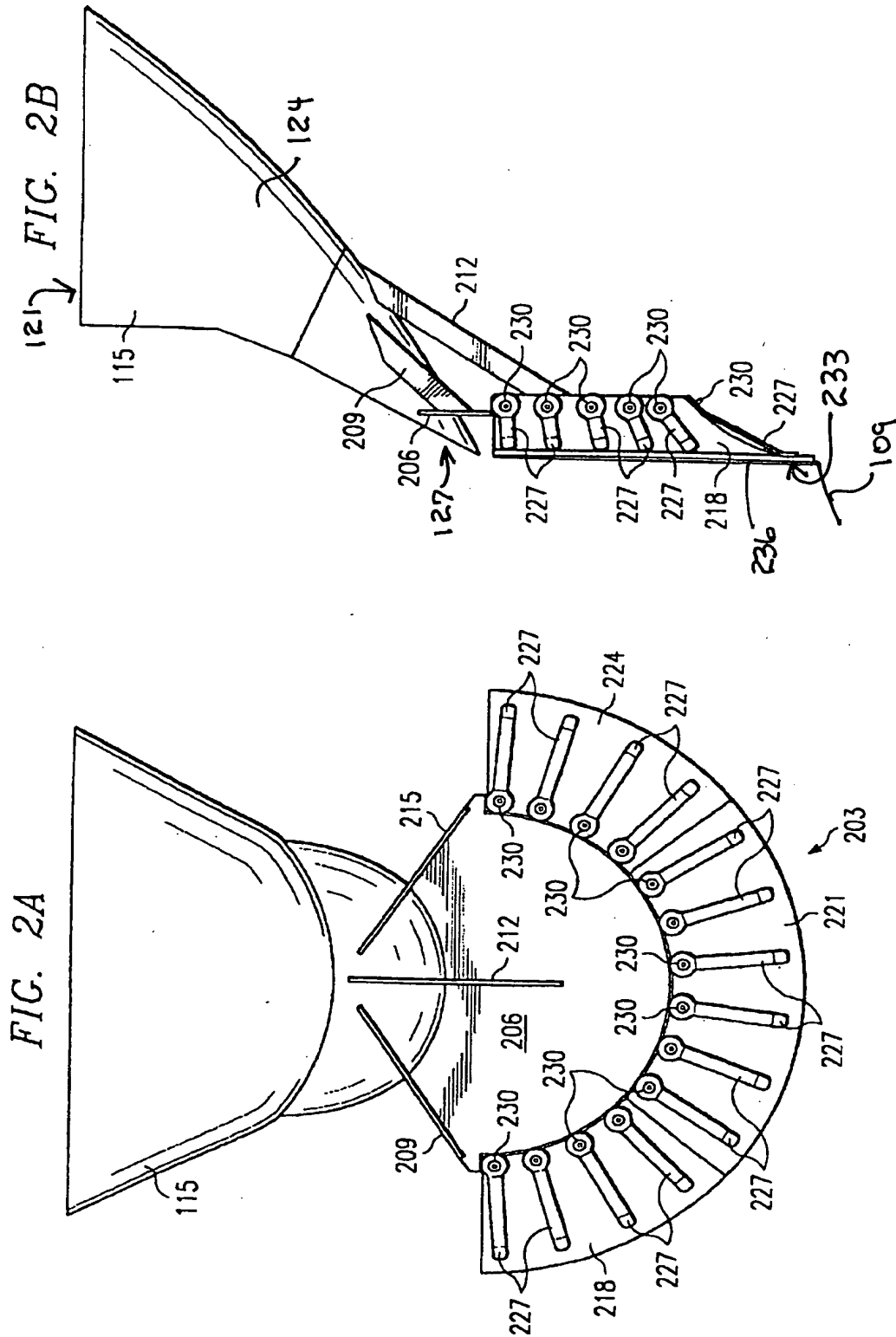


FIG. 1



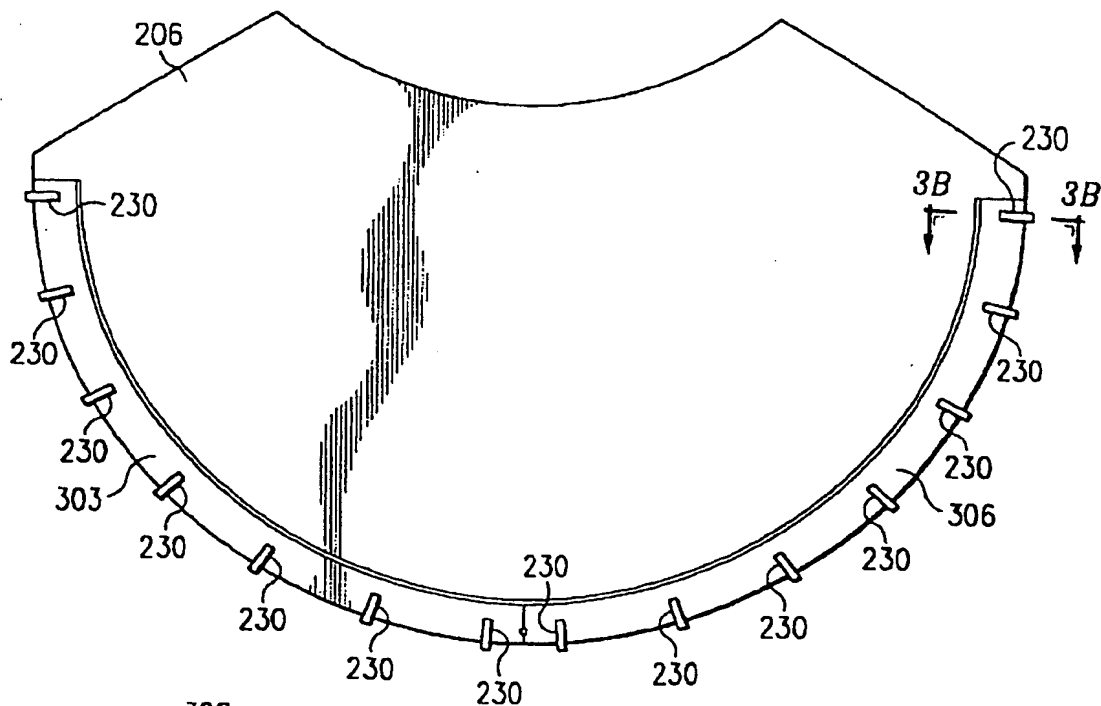


FIG. 3A

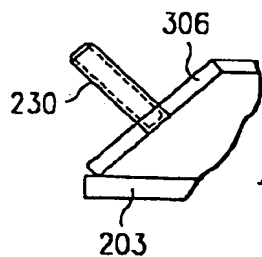


FIG. 3B

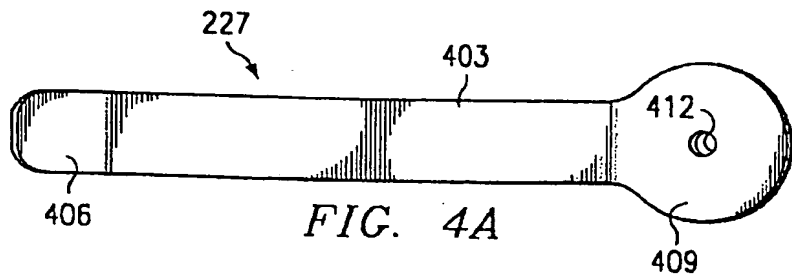


FIG. 4A

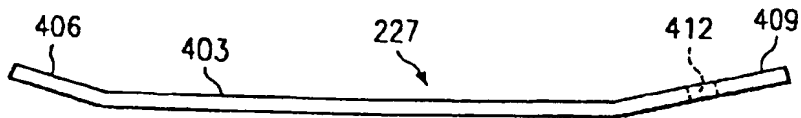


FIG. 4B

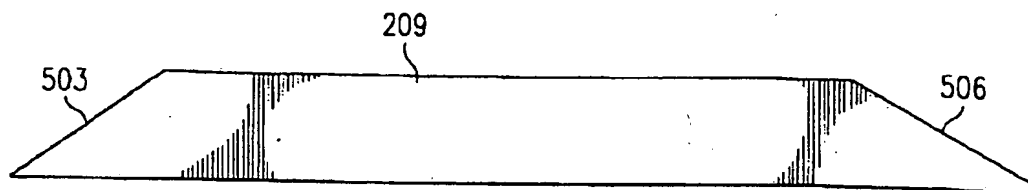


FIG. 5A



FIG. 5B

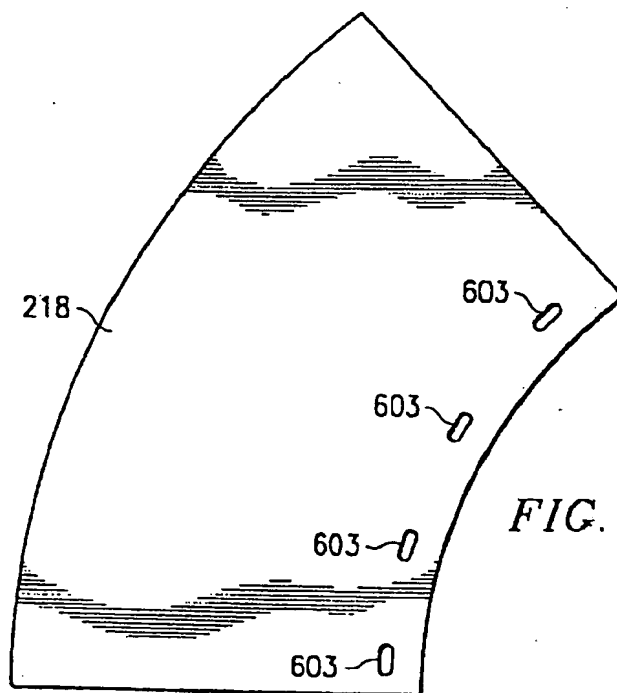


FIG. 6